

IN THE CLAIMS:

Entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested in order to place the present Application in condition for allowance:

1. (previously presented) Arrangement of several ferrules for optical waveguides with a plurality of connection sections, wherein at least two ferrules are connected with one another by at least one of a plurality of connection sections, at least one of the plurality of ferrules and at least one of the plurality of connection sections are formed in one piece, and the connection sections form a belt on which the ferrules are detachably fixed, such that when the ferrules are detected, the connection sections remain together in belt form.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the connection sections are flexible.
4. (previously presented) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the connection sections have a section fixing the ferrules to the belt of a reduced cross-section.
5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~continuous~~ belt is a plastic injection-molded part.

7. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein a belt segment for the injection-molding-on of another belt segment has a geometry by which the two belt segments are locked.

8. (previously presented) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic ferrules are connected in one piece with the belt.

9. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the ferrules and the belt are connected with one another at an end area of the ferrule.

10. (previously presented) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the belt is formed by mutually connected U-shaped bridge segments.

11. (previously presented) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the belt includes an upper and a lower belt between which the plastic ferrules are received.

12. (previously presented) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic ferrules are fixed on the belt such that the ferrules can be rotated about a longitudinal axis.

13. (withdrawn) Process for producing a belt having plastic ferrules, comprising:

injection-molding a first plastic ferrule,
conveying the first plastic ferrule by a defined distance, and
injection-molding a second plastic ferrule, so that the second ferrule is connected with the first plastic ferrule.

14. (withdrawn) Process according to Claim 13, wherein a belt segment is injection-molded with the plastic ferrules, the connection of the ferrules taking place by way of the belt segments.

15. (previously presented) A method of coupling an optical waveguide, comprising:

providing an arrangement of ferrules,
locating a ferrule of the arrangement over an end of the optical waveguide,
separating the ferrule from the arrangement of ferrules, and
fastening the ferrule to the optical waveguide,
wherein the arrangement of ferrules has a plurality of connection sections, at least two ferrules are connected with one another by at least one of a plurality of connection sections, at least one of the plurality of ferrules and at least one of the plurality of connection sections are formed in one piece, and the connection sections form a belt on which the ferrules are detachably fixed, such that when the ferrules are detected, the connection sections remain together in belt form.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the connection sections are flexible.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 15 ~~18~~, wherein the belt is formed by mutually connected U-shaped bridge segments.

20-22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) A method of making ferrules for optical waveguides, comprising:

providing at least two ferrules with a plurality of connection sections, and connecting the at least two ferrules with one another by at least one of a plurality of connection sections, wherein at least one of the plurality of ferrules and at least one of the plurality of connection sections are formed in one piece, and the connection sections form a belt on which the ferrules are detachably fixed, such that when the ferrules are detected, the connection sections remain together in belt form.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the connection sections are flexible.